



St. Louis Audubon Society



Tale Feathers

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 4

AUGUST 1998

Plan Now for Audubon's October Picnic

by Jim Holsen

St. Louis Audubon's fall picnic will be held at the Adlyne Freund Education Center at the Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit, 2 pm to dusk, on Sunday, October 18. Mark this date on your calendar now; be sure to note the directions below.

All Audubon members are invited to share an autumn day in the foothills of the Ozarks at a time when fall colors should be at their peak. Come in the early afternoon and walk through the prairie or enjoy a panoramic view of the rolling Ozark foothills while visiting with friends at the Freund Center. After dinner, join Dr. James Trager on a stroll along the boardwalk surrounding the nearby wetland.

As in past years, Paul and Mary Dueren will cook hot dogs and hamburgers, and Audubon will provide soft drinks. Bring a dish to share with others and other drinks that you may prefer.

Directions: The Adlyne Freund Education Center is on Gray Summit Road. Visitors to the Freund Center do not enter the Arboretum and do not pay the usual admission fee. The Arboretum is in Gray Summit about 23 miles west of the I-44/I-270 intersection near Kirkwood. At Gray Summit, exit and turn left on the overpass. After crossing over I-44, turn right onto the outer highway (Hwy 100); then immediately turn left onto Gray Summit Road, which runs along the eastern edge of the Arboretum. Continue for about 1.5 miles to a sign on twin stone posts at the Center's entrance.

Call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410, to make reservations, so we know how much food to provide.

Bird-Watching: The Coolest New Sport

by Peter Stangel

In case you haven't noticed, birding has become the outdoor sport of the '90's. According to a new survey by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) and the University of Georgia, **birding is the fastest growing outdoor recreation activity, with more than a 155% increase in participation during the 1980's and early 1990's.**

During that period, birding's popularity outstripped the growth in golf (only 29%), bicycling (2%), hiking (94%), downhill skiing (59%), and 24 other outdoor activities. The SGMA survey estimated that **more than 54 million Americans enjoy birding**, about the same number who participate in bicycling and fishing (57 million each), more than double the number who play tennis (21 million), and about half the number who walk as a recreational activity (134 million).

Why is birding so popular? There are many reasons. It is relatively inexpensive to get started, and it's a great activity for families or individuals. It can be done at home or as part of a trip. It is certainly challenging (have you ever really tried to identify female hummingbirds?), and can be quite competitive if you want it to be. It can be enjoyed by people of all heights, weights, and strengths. It can provide solitude, great parent-child quality time, or the perfect setting to talk business. You can bird while you walk your dog, play golf, or work in the garden.



The SGMA survey suggests that much of the growth in birding is due to people we might classify as "casual" birders—those who participate 1 to 2 days per year. There are still plenty of enthusiasts, however; **a whopping 18 million Americans reported spending 50 days or more birding each year—that's about 10% of the adult population in our country!** And, better than 12% of these 18 million enthusiasts are under age 30. Younger folks with sharp eyes are often great at initially spotting birds, and they appreciate the sharp identification skills that many older birders bring to the field.

You might be surprised to know how many of your friends, neighbors, and business associates are part of this new wave of birders. But you will never know until you ask. Take a chance in your next conversation and drop a few names—Evening Grosbeak, Wood Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco. The response may surprise you.

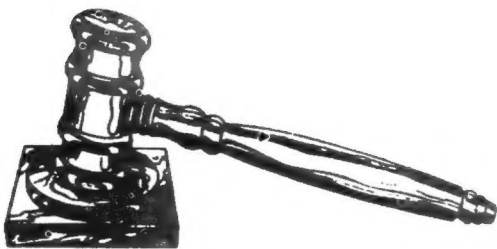
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Westgate Center
12388 Olive Blvd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
314/275-8777

94 Crossing Shopping Center
6219 Mid-Rivers Mall Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63304
314/441-7717



From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Missouri Environmental Fund Makes Distribution; Merger with Earth Share Considered

St. Louis Audubon has received a distribution of \$1,317 from the Missouri Environmental Fund (MEF), representing donations to the Society and our share of contributions to the Fund in about equal proportions. This is the second distribution for the fiscal year which ended June 30. The Fund participates in annual payroll-giving campaigns, often in the same campaign as the United Way, offering employees an opportunity to give some of their charity dollars to environmental causes. Currently, the Fund has 26 member organizations.

The Fund has found it difficult to gain access to payroll-giving campaigns with private employers, primarily because of opposition from the United Way. Gaining access to local, state, and federal campaigns has been easier because all groups have a legal right to participate. Among major private employers in St. Louis, only the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* welcomes the Fund. The opposition of United Way to environmental funds is nationwide, as was pointed out in an article in the *New York Times* several months ago.

Earth Share functions on a national scale much like the Missouri Environmental Fund does on a statewide scale. Earth Share has many familiar environmental groups, including the National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sierra Club Foundation, as members. While Earth Share has successfully negotiated access with many private employers, it also needs the local touch that a state fund provides. Thus, there is a move to consolidate national and local funds. Under these proposals, the MEF might become Earth Share of Missouri and solicit pledges for Earth Share's national members as well as for MEF's statewide and local members.

There is a good argument that only 1 organization should exist to solicit pledges for environmental giving—but there are also

pitfalls. Smaller organizations like St. Louis Audubon may become lost among the better-known larger societies. These and other questions will be considered in the coming months. Jerry Klamon and Laura Neuman are co-directors for the MEF.

Fall Weekend Meeting for Audubon Society of Missouri

by Paul Bauer

The annual fall meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri will be held at Camp Clover Point within Lake of the Ozarks State Park on September 25, 26, and 27.

The Saturday night program will be Dr. Jane Fitzgerald, Midwest regional coordinator of Partners in Flight, giving a presentation titled "Partners in Flight Priority Species in Missouri and the Midwest Region." Jane will talk about targeted species in Missouri, selection criteria, and strategies for their preservation. Saturday and Sunday mornings will each offer 4 or more different birding field trips.

This weekend adventure always includes good birding, good food, good programs, and very good fellowship. It is a wonderful chance to gain friends with similar interests in nature and wildlife from all across Missouri. Also the price is extremely reasonable since we use group cabins at Camp Clover Point.

For a detailed program and map with directions, call Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972.

Volunteer Orientation at Tyson Research Center

The Field Science Program of Washington University's Tyson Research Center invites those interested in learning about volunteer opportunities to attend an orientation meeting to be held on Thursday, August 13, from 7 to 9 pm. The meeting will be at the Tyson Research Center. The orientation meeting will acquaint potential volunteers with the goals and activities of the Field Science Program and cover the role of the volunteer.

The Field Science Program offers nature-related field trips for school children and scouts. Volunteers help with a wide variety of topics, including aquatic ecosystems, bird-banding, bats, and geology.

Tyson Research Center is located off I-44 between I-270 and Eureka. For more information or to register to attend, please call Tyson at 935-8430.

Get to Know . . .

John Solodar

(This is the twenty-fourth in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

Some of my fellow board members must wonder sometimes, "Who selected this guy to be on the board and why is he always questioning things?" For the answer to the first part, they need look no further than Paul Bauer. When Paul heard that I was taking early retirement from Monsanto, he grabbed me and asked me to be on the board. I could not turn him down after all that he has done for Nancy and me.

The second part of the question is the result of applying organic chemistry to a long list of catalysis and process research problems in Monsanto's Corporate Research Department. In that kind of research, one becomes a skeptic of everything that is presented until fully satisfied that a proper understanding has been achieved.

My interest in birding and the outdoors was kindled over 9 years as a camper and staff member at a Boy Scout camp in northern New Jersey along the Appalachian Trail. A flock of Cedar Waxwings making their way past my open-sided platform tent got me started on birds. That interest lay dormant for many years save for some family vacations on Sanibel Island, where I'd spend more time at the Darling Refuge than on the beach.

In 1993, Nancy and I went to Belize on a trip for educators whose focus was Mayan ruins, with lots of plants and birds thrown in. Both guides were excellent birders, and the colorful birds of Belize soon had us both hooked. We came back and started going on the Audubon trips for beginning birders which were being led by Paul Bauer. We followed this up with birding trips to Costa Rica, southeastern Arizona, Kenya, and Trinidad and Tobago. Everywhere we travel now, our binoculars go with us. A trip to New Jersey for a wedding found us taking our spotting scope in the overhead compartment of the airplane for use on the Jersey shore.

In addition to serving on the Audubon board, I volunteer at The Nature Conservancy with its tradelands program, and I serve on the University City Planning and Zoning Commission, where I have been chairman for 2 1/2 years. Helping a local Scout troop has also been on my agenda for a long time.

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. For confirmation & more information, call trip leaders Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Riverlands — *Sunday, September 6, at 8 am.* Shorebirding should be great! In St. Charles Co. near Alton, IL. Take Hwy 367 north of I-270, across Missouri River to right on last road before Mississippi River. Go east from gas station; turn right on first road to Teal Pond parking lot. See related birding article on pages 4 & 6.

Tower Grove Park — *Saturday, September 19, at 8 am.* Come to see fall warblers, migrating thrushes, sparrows, & flycatchers. In St. Louis City. Take I-44 or I-64 east to south on Kingshighway. Go about 1 mile to left on Magnolia. Park on street; walk to the brushy area (Gaddy Bird Garden) at northwest corner of park. See related birding article on pages 4 & 6.

Carlyle Lake — *Saturday, October 3, at 8 am.* Area provides best waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, migrating sparrows, & raptors that fall migration has to offer. Meet in McDonald's parking lot at intersection of routes 127 & 50 in Carlyle, IL. For other details of full-day trip, see related birding article on pages 4 & 6.

Ted Shanks Conservation Area — *Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11, at 8 am.* Area is great locale for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, & passerines. Meet at Ted Shanks office. For other important details of this weekend trip, see related birding article on pages 4 & 6.

Audubon-Related Activities

Audubon Society of Missouri Fall Meeting — *Friday through Sunday, September 25-27, at Lake of the Ozarks State Park.* For more info., call Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972. See related article on page 2.

Audubon All-Member Picnic — *Sunday, October 18, from 2 to 8 pm.* Held at Freund Center of Shaw Arboretum. To make reservations, call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410. For more info., see related article on page 1.

Audubon Bird Seed Sale — *Saturday, October 24, from 10 am to 3 pm.* Held at Green Center in University City. See additional info. & order form on page 5.

Special Events

Operation Clean Stream — *Saturday, August 22.* Annual trash pickup along Meramec River, sponsored by Open Space Council & Monsanto. To obtain more info. & to sign up, call Jerry Castillon, H# 391-7586, or Arthur Montgomery, H# 822-1215. See related article on this page.

Missouri Butterfly Count — *Saturday, September 5, at 9:30 am* at 5 different locations. Call appropriate coordinator to volunteer:

Busch Conservation Area—Bill Brandhorst, 965-7269

Cuivre River State Park—Bruce Shuette, 528-7247

Powder Valley Nature Center—Doug Jackson, 301-1500

Valley View Glade—Marshall Magner, 961-4588

Victoria Glade—George Winkler, 993-1652

Monsanto Eco-Fair — *Saturday, September 12, from 10 am to 4 pm.* Held at 700 Chesterfield Parkway North in Chesterfield. For more info., call Anna Stevens, H# 239-4486.

Prairie Day — *Saturday, September 19, at Shaw Arboretum.* Sponsored by MO Conservation Department. For more info., call Patti Redel at Powder Valley Nature Center, 301-1500, ext. 2234.

World Bird Sanctuary Open House — *Sunday, September 27, from 10 am to 4 pm.* Held at Tyson Research Center. For more info., call 938-6193.

Resource Center Network Open House — *Thursday, October 15, from 2:30 to 5 pm, at Powder Valley Nature Center.* Education departments of various institutions are available with resource materials for educators & other interested people. For more info., call Judy Higgins at 301-1500, ext. 2229.

Day in the Forest — *Sunday, October 18, at Rockwoods Conservation Area.* For more info., call Rockwoods at 458-2236 or Powder Valley at 301-1500.

World Ecology Day — *Friday, October 23, from 8:30 am to 2 pm.* Held at University of Missouri-St. Louis. For more info., call Bernadette Dalton at 516-6203.

Operation Clean Stream on August 22

by Jerry Castillon

Once again, the St. Louis Audubon Society is helping out with Operation Clean Stream, a very worthwhile annual event, to be held this year on Saturday, August 22. In past years all the participants expressed feelings of joy over the opportunity to do something about helping the environment instead of just talking about it. Most of us love to spend time canoeing on the river. On this particular day, we help clean it as we cruise down it.

Our group will be cleaning the section of the Meramec River from Hwy U Access to the Hwy 8 Bridge Access. This section is about 7 to 8 miles and is near Steelville, thus involving some travel time. We start about 7:30 in the morning and usually are out of the river by 1 pm. There are usually hotdogs and sodas for participants at several parks along the river for those wishing to end with a little picnic.

We would like to have you join us. We have some extra canoes, but they are going fast. Hopefully, you may have access to others. Give us a call if you would like to join us. Make it a family event or come on your own. It's a great way to spend a Saturday in August.

For more information and for carpooling arrangements, please call 1 of the coordinators:

Jerry Castillon, H# 391-7586

Arthur Montgomery, H# 822-1215

John Solodar... from page 2

Remember those career preference tests we all took in high school? Mine always came out with laboratory scientist as number 1 and forest ranger (or some outdoors-focused activity) as a close number 2. I figure that I spent the first third of my life getting educated and the second third being a laboratory chemist. Now I plan to spend the rest of my life fulfilling the promise of choice number 2 and spend as much time in the field as possible and the rest contributing to preserve nature for future generations.

The Conservation Corner

Page Avenue Campaign in Planning Stage

by Jim Holsen

Last December the St. Louis County Council passed legislation ceding right-of-way across Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park to the Missouri Department of Transportation for construction of the proposed 10-lane Page Avenue Extension. Thanks to the highly successful petition drive last winter, a referendum on the November ballot will allow county voters to reject that proposition. Overwhelming support in the petition drive suggests that county voters will as firmly reject the action of the County Council, sending the county administration the message that Page Avenue is not in the best interests of St. Louis County.

But a difficult campaign lies ahead. The Regional Commerce and Growth Association (RCGA), representing highway construction firms and developers, has a budget of \$750,000 to fight the referendum. By contrast, Taxpayers Against Page Freeway (TAPF) will be forced to wage a grassroots campaign, depending upon the help of hundreds or thousands of volunteers who are convinced that the highway is a disaster for the county. The volunteers will make the difference.

Our politicians, including Senators Bond and Ashcroft, Congressman Jim Talent, Governor Carnahan, and County Executive Buzz Westfall, are all on the side of the developers, at odds with the wishes of the citizens as expressed in the petition drive. These politicians are fighting the last war, too wrapped up in their bureaucratic ways to realize that the citizens are way ahead of them in identifying today's issues.

The old issues of loss of wetlands and wildlife

habitat and the trashing of a heavily used county park are still there. But the new issue of urban sprawl, with the loss of established neighborhoods and businesses, has attracted the support of the St. Louis County Municipal League and of at least 2 church groups, Churches United for Community Action (CUCA) and Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis (MCU). These new organizations are among the more active supporters of TAPF.

The connection between Page Avenue and urban sprawl is not really a new issue; it was discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), but the implications were not evident in 1992 as much as they are today. In a discussion of jobs that would be created as a result of "induced development" on the Maryland Heights floodplain, the EIS noted: "Given the St. Louis region's slow economic growth since 1970, many of these jobs . . . would probably represent the relocation of economic activities from other commercial and industrial centers. Downtown St. Louis, Clayton, and older industrial areas, office developments, business parks, etc. would all be affected to varying degrees as would their taxing governmental bodies." It was recognized that residential and commercial development in St. Charles County would have the same effect. This is why the County Municipal League and the churches are so intensely involved in TAPF.

Volunteers are badly needed to help with the campaign. Call the Missouri Coalition for the Environment at 727-0600 if you can help. Contributions, which are not tax deductible, should be payable to Taxpayers Against Page Freeway and mailed to the Coalition at 6267 Delmar Blvd. #2-E, St. Louis, MO 63130, Attn: Roger Pryor.

Birds, Birds, Birds (Did I Mention Birds?)

by Jim Malone

As the hot lazy days of summer draw to a close, it is definitely time to start thinking about fall birding in St. Louis! Each year, the *August Tale Feathers* includes our calendar of events for the following 9 months. In this year's crop of birding trips, we will be returning to many of our established haunts, while including some special out-of-town trips ranging from 1 day to over a week in length. This year we will be adopting a more flexible approach to the locations of local bird walks. In order to provide participants with the best variety of viewing opportunities, we may opt to go to alternative locations not on the calendar (but close to the listed meeting place).

We will continue to offer local birding trips at what we believe to be the best locations for each season in St. Louis. Fall trips are designed to follow shorebird, warbler, other passerine, raptor, and waterfowl migration flights as they move through the area. In these trips we will try to spend extra time with the new birders, helping them learn to identify those "confusing fall warblers," to name raptors in flight over half of a mile away, and to understand why that Wood Thrush over there isn't a Swainson's Thrush! Winter trips will feature primarily waterfowl, gulls, sparrows, and winter finches. This is always an interesting time of year to look things over for that unusual gull (yes, we will make you look at the gulls), duck, or wandering sparrow. Next spring, we have a very full calendar of local trips promising great views of flamboyant spring warblers, singing thrushes, kettles of raptors, and a wonderful assortment of local breeding birds as they make plans for the year's broods.

In addition to our regular blend of local walks, we have scheduled a number of special events this year to a wide variety of locations. We will be repeating last year's popular Carlyle Lake trip with a couple of new twists (see details below) as our first special day trip. The following weekend we will be offering a trip to Ted Shanks Conservation Area and Clarence Canon Wildlife Refuge (also detailed below). March 21 marks the date of what we expect to be our first annual sparrow round-up. We have the fields all picked out for the event; all we need is a good group of sparrow wranglers (horse and chaps optional). On April 10, we will be going to central Missouri to see established Prairie Chicken leks. This trip may be your best opportunity to see birds like Greater Prairie Chickens, Upland Sandpipers, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, or Smith's Longspurs in Missouri.

Continued on page 6

Stay Up-to-Date on National Conservation Issues!

Mary Lou Miller is continuing to provide a summary of national conservation issues in the news for each month to all the St. Louis Audubon board members.

If you would also like this summary each month, please call Mary Lou (H# 389-3969) with your name, address, and phone number. If you leave a message on her answering machine, please spell out your name and address clearly. You may also write to her at:

3927 Lucas & Hunt Road
St. Louis, MO 63121

Here's a chance to get information on all kinds of environmental issues from a variety of sources!

The St. Louis Audubon Society

Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, October 24, 10 am to 3 pm

Green Center—next to Kaufman Park

8025 Blackberry Avenue University City, St. Louis

The St. Louis Audubon Society is again conducting a bird seed sale to benefit the chapter's conservation and education programs. Get your supply of bird seed from St. Louis Audubon—encourage your friends, neighbors, and relatives to make orders, also.

This year 4 different seed types are available: 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of black oil-type sunflower seed, 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of premium mix bird seed, 10-lb. bags of thistle/niger seed, and 25-lb. and 50-lb. bags of safflower seed.

To order, please complete the order form below. **You will need to pick up your bird seed on October 24 at the Green Center between 10 am and 3 pm, or your seed will be forfeited and resold.** One week prior to the sale, a postcard will be sent to you to verify that your order and check were received and to remind you of the pick-up place and time.

If you have any questions, please call Dianne Johnson (H# 458-4369) or Sue Smith (H# 256-7986). **Your order and check must be received by October 17.** Checks will not be cashed until after the pick-up date.

(Please detach here; mail bottom portion along with your check.)

BIRD SEED ORDER FORM

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Address _____



of 25-lb. bags sunflower seed _____ X \$9 @ = _____

of 50-lb. bags sunflower seed _____ X \$15 @ = _____

of 25-lb. bags premium mix _____ X \$8 @ = _____

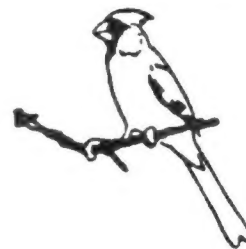
of 50-lb. bags premium mix _____ X \$14 @ = _____

of 10-lb. bags thistle/niger _____ X \$11 @ = _____

of 25-lb. bags safflower _____ X \$13 @ = _____

of 50-lb. bags safflower _____ X \$24 @ = _____

Total Amount (check enclosed) _____



Mail order & check to:

Bird Seed

Sue Smith

1512 Virginia

Ellisville, MO 63011

(Mail early to ensure receipt of order by October 17—THANKS!)

Please make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Please feel free to photocopy this form and circulate it to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

We Care for the Wild Ones

by Carol Kershner, President

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION

At WILD BIRD REHABILITATION, getting ready for a new warm-weather season of birding does *not* mean locating new birding sites, listening to tapes of bird songs, or checking out the binoculars, but rather cleaning rooms, readying cages, checking diets and procedures, and training new volunteers.

We do *not* identify special birds from a distance, but we identify injuries up close. Injuries from birds being struck by cars, caught by cats or flying into windows are what we see

most often. We care for birds tossed from nests during storms or "helped" out of nests by curious children or pets. I emphatically add that we work only with those nestlings that absolutely cannot be returned to their nests!

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION has been taking care of injured birds for the past 5 years. Here we see predominantly songbirds and other small birds. Because of our size, we cannot treat raptors or large waterfowl. Soon after opening it became clear that, while there is a naturally high mortality for birds during their first 2 years, this is greatly increased by man-made hazards. Giving a second chance to these injured birds is

our small payback for creating dangers which can cause them so much harm.

Mainly from May through August, we care for hundreds of injured, sick, and orphaned birds. The multiple species range from robins to rails, flickers to finches, and wrens to warblers. We have the opportunity to get up close and personal with some very special "patients."

We are always looking for people to help us in these endeavors. We need help with feeding, cleaning, washing dishes, answering phone calls, greeting people (and birds) at the door, and a myriad of other tasks that help us to continue our work. Please call us at 984-9116 if you would like to get *really close* to the birds.

We will be teaming up with Bill Rowe on this trip, and it promises to be quite an adventure. The annual woodcock walk and owl prowl will be held on the evening of April 17 this year at Busch Conservation Area. The courtship display flights of these stocky shorebirds make the trip a joy each year, but we nearly always see other wonders as well. On previous woodcock walks we have seen Great-horned Owls, Barred Owls, Common Loons, Common Snipe, Sora, and Swamp Sparrows (to name a few), and to date, our woodcock sighting success is 100%!

The final outing in this group is a very special trip indeed! St. Louis Audubon Society board member Mike Arduser has designed a week-long trip at the end of May to the northwoods of Michigan and Wisconsin to share the best of northwoods birding with us. This trip will include such great attractions as the Mio/Grayling Michigan area to look at nesting Kirtland's Warblers, the shorelines of the Great Lakes to view prime marshes during the peak of shorebird migration, and numerous national parks and refuges in both states. Keep an eye peeled for details about this exciting trip in future *Tale Feathers* issues.

Our first birding outing of the fall season (on September 6) will be to the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area near Alton, Illinois. Riverlands always sets the standard for waterfowl viewing in the St. Louis area, and if the river is drawn down at Alton, the shorebirding for this time of year can be truly amazing! Saturday, September 19, we will be meeting at Tower Grove Park, one of the most reliable and birder-friendly locations from which to view spring and fall warbler migrations. We expect to find good numbers of fall warblers, migrating thrushes, sparrows, and flycatchers.

Our first full day trip will be to Carlyle Lake on October 3. We should have a wonderful day of the best waterfowl, gulls, shorebirds, migrating sparrows, and raptors that the fall migration has to offer. This year's trip will begin in the

McDonald's parking lot at the intersection of routes 127 and 50 in Carlyle, Illinois. If the 8 am meeting time seems early to some St. Louis birders, it might be wise to consider spending Friday night in Carlyle. Last year we did not meet at Carlyle until 9 am and missed some pretty good migrants that were up early. This year we are attempting to secure a float boat with which we can cruise some of the best areas of the lake from the center. This should be a big advantage when looking for Phalaropes and Sabine's Gulls, which appear nearly every year at this time.

Additional forays made during this trip will certainly include the impoundment at parking lot #3 for shorebirds, Hazlett State Park for passerines and possibly owls, and the South Shores recreation area of the lake. We will probably return to a sewage lagoon or two as well (always a crowd-pleaser).

The final birding trip covered by this newsletter's upcoming events will be to Ted Shanks Conservation Area near Louisiana, Missouri, on October 10 and 11. This trip is designed as a weekend trip, but people can also come on Saturday or Sunday, if limited time is available. We will meet at 8 am at the Ted Shanks office and spend the day in the field at Ted Shanks, so be certain to pack a lunch! The area's location along the Mississippi flyway and great diversity of habitats make it a great locale for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines (anything is possible). After a full day of birding, we will spend the evening and night in Louisiana. Sunday morning we meet for breakfast at an (as yet) undetermined location and then return to Ted Shanks for the morning, or move to Clarence Canon National Wildlife Refuge for a half day of birding before returning to St. Louis at the close of the weekend. Those interested in obtaining additional information about any of the trips listed above, directions to the venues, or lodging information for the Carlyle or Ted Shanks trips should contact Jim Malone at 536-1119.

As you can see, we have another great calendar of birding trips setup for the 1998-1999 season, and we hope to see each of you on the trips. It is a great way to learn more about bird identification, meet really nice people, and simply have a wonderful time! If you have any questions about the various trips listed here or in the 1998-1999 calendar, call Jim Malone, H# 536-1119.

Revised St. Louis Area Bird Book Now Available

by Paul Bauer

BIRDS OF THE ST. LOUIS AREA: Where and When to Find Them has been revised and reprinted. Copies are now available from all local Wild Bird Centers, Wild Birds Unlimited, Wild Bird Marketplace stores, the Missouri Botanical Garden Bookstore, and the Shaw Arboretum Shop. Also check some local garden supply-type stores and bookstores. By mail, the book is available as catalog #308 from the American Birding Association. Call 1-800/634-7736; you may charge the purchase to a credit card.

So if you already have a copy of the original book, should you consider getting the revised copy? Various additions, revisions, and improvements are included. Actually, about 80 revisions have been made to the text and maps; that is how much has changed in our birding world in just 4 years since the original records were closed!

We added 4 new birding locations and revised directions and instructions for several others, so the total birding locations described now exceed 125 places. Numerous revisions were necessary to the 17 colored maps to fit the revised directions.

If possible, revisions were made in the existing text space, but when necessary, the longer changes were added to an appendix, which has 10 additional pages. The book now has 202 pages.

The appendix includes the above-mentioned corrections and additions to birding locations, changes in species names, significant new bird records, general lodging information for visitors, and a checklist of 357 species of birds seen in the St. Louis area since 1940.

The individual species reviews now total the 380 species that have ever been reported in our area. Nine new species were added in this revision. See the new book to find out which ones! The colored, seasonal occurrence bar graphs provide detailed visual information on what birds should be expected and how common they are for each 10-day period during the year. Best of all, the book has a spiral binding, so it can lie open on the front seat of your car or on a windowsill at home.

So if you have *any* interest in birds and the historic records of rare bird sightings around St. Louis, make it a point to go out and buy this beautiful book soon! The first 3,000 books sold out in 15 months. How long will the 2,000 copies of the revised book last?

If you have questions, call Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972).



Birding by Ear Class

by Charlene Malone

Did you ever want to know what bird is waking you up at 5 am every morning in the spring? Or while on your evening walk, have you wondered what bird is calling off in the distance? Maybe during this last spring, you heard more birds than you could see because the dense canopy of foliage obscured your view of the migrants.

Maybe I can shed a little light in that direction. Come join me this fall when I will help you to demystify birding by ear by revealing the little tricks many birders use to remember the hundreds of vocalizations of the birds that migrate through and breed in Missouri.

The class will be held at St. Louis Community College, Florissant Valley, on Thursday, September 10, from 7 to 9 pm. Registration fee is \$5. Birding experience is helpful, and don't forget to bring an eastern bird field guide.

Registration information is as follows:

Class Title: Introduction to Missouri
Bird Songs
BIO:712 550, A 234
Thursday, 7-9 pm
September 10, 1998
1 session, fee of \$5

Call the Continuing Education Department at Florissant Valley at 595-4444 for more information and to register. You may also call me for more information about the class at H# 536-1119.

St. Louis Audubon Honored at Riverlands Dedication

by Sue Smith

On June 12, St. Louis Audubon participated in and was honored at the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area dedication. Riverlands is located near Alton, Illinois.

At the dedication ceremony, our Audubon chapter received a certificate and a wood egret carving in recognition of our "efforts to conserve native plants, animals, and their habitats and to promote and support the protection and conservation of local, regional, and global natural systems."

Walter Crawford, director of the Wild Bird Sanctuary, was the main speaker and delighted the audience with various stories of his cabin in the woods and his close connection to nature. His talk focused on sustainability of our natural systems. Representative Jim Talent, one of the various dignitaries in attendance, gave a brief address.

In addition to the dedication, Audubon had a booth at the environmental fair that ran from 10 am until 4 pm at the same location. A bird walk, a flora walk, a demonstration of fish censusing, and a raptor demonstration were other ongoing activities.

A special thanks goes to the following Audubon members who made our participation possible:

Paul Bauer
Jim Holsen

Dianne Johnson
Sue Smith



St. Louis Audubon Society



Please note that the deadline for **Tale Feathers** articles and information has been changed to the 15th of the month before the publication month. The deadline for the October newsletter is, therefore, September 15.

Remember to save the 1998 — 1999 Calendar insert and post it in a special place!

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check the membership category desired:

☐ Introductory/\$20

☐ Sustaining/\$50

☐ Sr. Citizen Family/\$23

☐ New

☐ Individual/\$35

☐ Supporting/\$100

☐ Renewal

☐ Family/\$40

☐ Sr. Citizen/\$21

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Send application to:

Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairperson
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

Make membership checks payable to:
National Audubon Society

If you wish to make a donation to the local chapter, please write a separate check to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Officers 1998-99

Jim Holsen	President	822-0410
Sue Smith	VP-Education	256-7986
Bill Groth, Jr.	VP-Conservation	843-7440
Arthur Montgomery	VP-Finance	822-1215
Mary Lou Miller	Treasurer	389-3969
Mary Dueren	Secretary	576-1473

Board of Directors

Mike Arduser		968-8479
Christy Beckmann	MO Environmental Fund	822-2428
Lynne Breakstone		726-4772
Jerry Castillon	Operation Clean Stream	391-7586
Dallas Cox		878-1080
Tom Day	Annual Dinner/Meeting	962-4064
Vicki Flier		968-9166
Michael Grant		519-0208
Susanne Greenlee	Butterfly Count Coordinator	727-6044
Dianne Johnson		458-4369
Sara Lenoe		351-4565
Jim Malone	Birding	536-1119
Edward Ortleb		351-0966
Dale Ponce		394-6011
John Solodar		862-5294
Missy Stern		862-0925
Anna Stevens		239-4486
Vicky Walker		618/236-2473

Other Chairpeople/Coordinators

Paul Bauer	Birding	921-3972
Bill Brandhorst	Wildlife Mountings	965-7269
Katherine Chambers	Membership	863-9346
	Newsletter Mailing	
Sue Jones	Bird Seed Sale Committee	721-0819
LaVerne Koyne	Message Center Phone Line	878-9125
Julie Leemann	Awards & Scholarships	962-2093
Dorothy Mill	Community Club Awards	966-6163
Jerry Miller	Investment Committee	389-3969
Janice Patton	Print Library	921-4875
Karen Turner	Resource Center Network Rep.	771-6814
	SLEEN Representative	
Dave Tylka	Strategic Planning Committee	984-7712

Our Phone Number

To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call 314/822-6595.

THANK YOU

For Donations to the St. Louis Audubon Society:

R. J. SAUGET,

in memory of Harry A. Woodbury

KATHERINE CHAMBERS,

in memory of Harry Giessow

ROBERT O. NELLUMS TRUST,

Birdathon Donation

BLAINE ULMER,

Birdathon Donation



Newsletter Information

The St. Louis Audubon Society's *Tale Feathers* is printed bimonthly on recycled paper with soy ink and produced by Dolde Printing Co., 1350 Lonedell Road, Arnold, MO 63010.

Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **September 15, 1998** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Road, Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).



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St. Louis Audubon Society



FALL 1998 - SPRING 1999

SEPTEMBER 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 B	2	3	4	5 BC
6 BW	7 H	8	9	10	11	12 MF
13	14	15 NL	16	17	18	19 BW PD
20	21	22	23	24	25 ASM	26 ASM
27 WBS ASM	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 BT
4	5	6 B	7	8	9	10 BT
11 BT	12 H	13	14	15 RCN	16	17
18 P DF	19	20	21	22	23 WE	24 BS
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 GM	2	3 B	4	5	6 MEE	7 BW MEF MEE
8 MEE	9	10	11 H	12	13	14
15 BW NL	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 H	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 B	2	3	4	5 BW MEF
6 HOH	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 H	26
27	28	30	31			

JANUARY 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 H	2
3	4	5 B	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 NL	16 BW MS
17 MS	18 H	19	20	21	22	23
24 31 ED	25	26	27	28 GM	29	30 ED

FEBRUARY 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 B	3	4	5	6 MS
7 MS	8	9	10	11	12 GM	13
14 H	15 H	16	17	18	19	20 BW
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 B	3	4	5	6 BW WBE
7	8	9	10	11	12 SRC	13 SRC
14 SRC	15 NL	16	17 H	18	19	20
21 BW	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 1999 - BIRDATHON MONTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 H	5	6 B	7	8	9	10 BT
11 BT	12	13	14	15	16	17 BW
18	19	20	21	22 AD EDT	23 ASM	24 ASM
25 BW ASM	26	27	28	29 GM	30	

MAY 1999 - BIRDATHON MONTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 BW
2 BW IMB	3	4 B	5	6	7	8 BD NAB IMB
9 BW	10	11	12	13	14	15 NL BC EDF
16 EDF	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31 H	25	26	27	28	29 BT/SE

- AD - Annual Dinner
- ASM - Audubon Society of Missouri
- B - Board Meeting
- BC - Butterfly Count
- BD - Birding Big Day
- BS - Bird Seed Sale
- BT - Birding Trip
- BW - Birding Walk
- DF - Day In The Forest
- ED - Eagle Days

- EDF - Earth Day Festival
- EDT - Traditional Earth Day
- GM - General Membership Meeting
- H - Holiday
- HOH - Holiday Open House
- IMB - Int'l. Migratory Bird Week & Day
- MEE - Missouri Environ. Education Assn.
- MEF - Missouri Environmental Fund
- MF - Monsanto Eco-Fair
- MS - Masters of the Sky

- NAB - North American Bird Count
- NL - Newsletter Deadline
- P - Annual Membership Picnic
- PD - Prairie Day
- RCN - Resource Center Network
- SE - Superior Expedition (Birding Trip)
- SRC - Spring River Conference
- WBE - World Bird Sanctuary Eagle Day
- WBS - World Bird Sanctuary Open House
- WE - World Ecology Day

St. Louis Audubon Society

Fall 1998 - Spring 1999 Calendar

ALL DETAILS ON THIS CALENDAR ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL OR CHECK NEWSLETTER FOR LATEST INFORMATION.

Note that for phone numbers, W or B refers to work, H refers to home.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings include an annual fall picnic, a joint Holiday Open House with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS), a joint Friday evening meeting with WGNSS and an Annual Dinner Meeting. This year St. Louis Audubon is scheduling three special meetings, two on birding and one at the Zoo. Tentative dates for these meetings are Sunday, Nov. 1, '98 (Zoo); Jan. 28, '99, and April 29, '99.

BOARD MEETINGS

STLAS Board of Directors' Meeting - 7:30 pm, first Tuesday of each month except July. Powder Valley Nature Center. Call Jim Holsen for information, H-822-0410.

Calendar Planning: - Tuesday, July 6, 1999 - 7:30 p.m. at Audubon office, 325 North Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

This year the deadline for Newsletter articles has been changed to provide a date that is consistent and easy to remember. The deadline is the 15th of the month for issues dated the first of the following month. Publication is every two months. Newsletter articles should be sent to the Editor, Karen Tyka (H-942-3142), by the deadlines given below:
 Sep 15, '98 Nov 15, '98 Jan 15, '99
 Mar 15, '99 May 15, '99 July 15, '99

BIRDING TRIPS

Meet at the designated site. Most trips end by noon. Bring binoculars and bird book. Dress for field conditions/season. Coaching and instruction for all levels. See sidebar for directions. See updated descriptions in the Newsletter. For questions or to confirm: Call Paul Bauer - H-921-3972 or Jim Malone - H-(314)-536-1119.

Date	Day of Week	Time	Place
Sep 6	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Riverlands
Sep 19	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Tower Grove Park
Oct 3*	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Carlyle Lake
Oct 10*	Saturday/Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Ted Shanks Cons. A.
Nov 7	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Riverlands
Nov 15	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Riverlands
Dec 5	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Horseshoe Lake
Jan 16	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Riverlands
Feb 20	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Horseshoe Lake
Mar 6	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Busch Cons. Area
Mar 21*	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Horseshoe Lake
Apr 10*	Saturday/Sunday	See Newsltr.	W. Central Missouri
Apr 17*	Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Busch Cons. Area
Apr 25	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Castlewood State Park
May 1	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Arboretum - Fee \$3
May 2	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Tower Grove Park
May 9	Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Forest Park
May 29*	Saturday (Week long)	See Newsltr	Michigan / L. Superior

*SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS

Oct. 3, 1998 - 8:00 a.m., at Lake Carlyle. Meet at McDonald's Restaurant near jct. of Hwy 50 and Ill-127 in Carlyle, Illinois. Will try to rent a boat for pelagic sightings of gulls, etc. Call for reservations.
 Oct. 10-11, 1998 - 8:00 a.m. at Ted Shanks Cons. Area, near Louisiana, MO. May also visit Clarence Cannon Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

Mar. 21, 1999 - 8:00 a.m. at HQ Bldg, Horseshoe Lake State Park, on Illinois Hwy 111. First Annual Sparrow Roundup.

Apr. 10-11, 1999 - A weekend in West Central Missouri to see Prairie Chickens, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Upland Sandpipers, etc. Maybe stop at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area on return. Drive there on the 9th to meet early Saturday morning. See Newsletter for details.

Apr. 17, 1999 - 7:00 p.m. - Owl and Woodcock Prowl, Busch Conservation Area. Note evening hours.

May 29, 1999 - Birding in N. Michigan and along Lake Superior. An approximately week long trip. Watch Newsletter or call Mike Ardluser for details at H-968-8479.

WATCH FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION ON THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Missouri Audubon Council - The Council meets four times each year. Meetings have not been scheduled. Call Jim Holsen at 822-0410.

Missouri Environmental Fund - Aug 29, 1998, Board mtg., video conf. Resource Center Network - Planning meeting Aug 27, 1998. Open House (see below) at Powder Valley Nature Center Oct. 15. Call Judy Higgins, Pdr. Valley, 301-1500 X-2229.

Operation Clean Stream - August 22, 1998. See Aug Newsletter. Call Jerry Castillon at H-391-7596 for info.

Sixth Annual Missouri Butterfly Count - September 5, 1998, 9:30 a.m. at 5 different locations. See Newsletter for coordinators, or call Susanne Greenlee W-968-1105, H-727-6044 for information.

Monsanto Eco-Fair - September 12, 1998 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 700 Chesterfield Parkway North, Chesterfield, Missouri. Call Anna Stevens for info H-314-239-4486.

Prairie Day - Sept. 19, 1998, MO Dept. of Conservation at Shaw Arboretum. Call Patti Redel at Powder Valley, B-301-1500 X-2234.

Audubon Society of Missouri Fall Meeting - Sept. 25-27, 1998, Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Call Paul Bauer, H-921-3972 for info.

World Bird Sanctuary Open House - Sept. 27, 1998, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tyson Research Center. Call 938-6193 for information.

Resource Center Network Open House - Education Departments of many institutions will be at Powder Valley Nature Center, October 15, 1998, from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Call Judy Higgins W-301-1500, X-2229.
 Audubon All-Member Picnic - October 18, 1998 - Shaw Arboretum
 Freund Center - 2-8 p.m. - See Newsletter or call Jim Holsen for details. H-822-0410.

Day in the Forest - October 18, 1998 - Rockwoods. Call Rockwoods Cons. Area for information at 458-2236, or Powder Valley at 301-1500.

World Ecology Day - October 23, 1998 - University of MO - St. Louis. 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Call Bernadette Dalton B-516-6203 for information.

Bird Seed Sale - October 24, 1998 - At the Green Center, University City. See Newsletter for hours. Pre-order using order forms in Aug and Oct Newsletters. Call Sue Smith at H-256-7986 for information.

Missouri Environmental Education Assn. Conference - Nov. 6-8, 1998. Tan Tar A Resort. Call Sue Smith at H-256-7986 or Patti Redel, Powder Valley Nature Center, W-301-1500 X-2234.

Missouri Environmental Fund - Nov. 7, 1998, Board meeting, video conf. Call Jerry Klamon or Laura Neuman at W-771-6668.

Holiday Open House with WGNSS - December 6, 1998, 1 - 4 p.m., Tyson Research Center. For details, call Jim Holsen at H-822-0410 or Vicki Flier at H-968-8166.

Masters of the Sky - American Bald Eagle, Jan. 16-17, 1999, Clarksville; Feb. 6-7, 1999, Alton; - Corps of Engineers. Call Riverlands Office - Julie Zlino or Brian Markert at B-899-2600 for information.
 Eagle Days at Clarksville - Jan. 30-31, 1999. MO Dept. of Conservation, call Patti Redel at Powder Valley, W-301-1500 X-2234.

Joint General Membership Meeting Audubon & WGNSS - February 12, 1999, 8 p.m. - St. Louis County Library HQ Bldg., Clayton & Lindbergh Blvd. - Program to be announced.

Wetlands for Kids - Date TBD - Busch Conservation Area - Call Nancy Schneider at B-441-4554 for details. Held on Mar. 14 in 1998.

World Bird Sanctuary Eagle Days at Lone Elk County Park - March 6, 1999. Call WBS (Lone Elk Park) at 225-4390 for information.

National Audubon Society Spring River Conference - Kearney, NE - March 12-14, 1999. Sandhill Cranes. Call Rowe Sanctuary at (308)-468-5282, or Jim Holsen at H-822-0410 for info.

Annual Dinner Meeting - April 22, 1999. Watch Newsletter for information, or call Tom Day at H-962-4064.

Traditional Earth Day - April 22, 1999. See Earth Day Festival, May 15. Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting - April 23-25, 1999. Call Paul Bauer at H-921-3972 for information.

Birding Big Day - May 8, 1999. Identify as many species as possible. North American Migratory Bird Count - May 8, 1999. Call Blaine Ulmer H-966-5425 or Paul Bauer H-921-3972.

International Migratory Bird Celebration - May 2-8, 1999. Watch for activities brochure in April Newsletter. Call Mary Lou Miller at H-389-3969. Audubon's one day celebration will be on May 8, see Newsletter.
 Earth Day Festival - May 15-16, 1999. See details in Newsletter, or call Jerry Klamon or Laura Neuman at B-776-4442.

Butterfly Count - May 15 and June 19, 1999. See Newsletter for details or call Susanne Greenlee at W-968-1105, H-727-6044.

St. Louis Audubon

Message Center 822-6595

President	Jim Holsen	H-822-0410
VP for Education	Sue Smith	H-256-7986
VP for Conservation	Bill Groth, Jr.	H-843-7440
VP for Finance	Arthur Montgomery	H-822-1215
Treasurer	Mary Lou Miller	H-389-3969
Secretary	Mary Dueren	H-576-1473

GETTING TO EVENTS

Powder Valley Nature Center: East on I-44 from I-270, ½ mile to Watson Rd. Exit. Turn left first traffic light onto Geyer Rd. Go ½ mile and turn left on Cragwood Rd. Go 1 ½ miles. Entrance is on right.

Busch Conservation Area: In St. Charles Co., Hwy 94 south of US 40, 1 mile to a right on Hwy D. Go 1.5 miles. Entrance on right. Pass through gate to Hampton Lake parking lot on left.

Tyson Research Center: I-44 west of I-270, 7 miles to the Beaumont and Antire Rd. Exit. The entrance is on the right near the end of the ramp.

Forest Park: In St. Louis City. Park on street behind the Art Museum. Meet at the edge of the woods.

Arboretum: I-44 west from I-270 to Gray Summit Exit. South side of Hwy on Outer Rd. (\$3.00/per person fee.)

Riverlands: In St. Charles Co. near Alton, IL. Hwy 367 north of I-270, across the Missouri River to right on last road before the Mississippi River. Go east from gas station, turn right on first road to Teal Pond parking lot.

Horseshoe Lake: I-55/70 east of St. Louis to north on Hwy 111. Go thru park entrance to HQ Building.

Tower Grove Park: In St. Louis City. I-44 or I-64 east to south on Kingshighway. Go ~1 mile to left on Magnolia. Park on street; walk to the brushy area (Gaddy Bird Garden) at the northwest corner of the park.

Castlewood State Park: Take Big Bend West from I-270 for about 6 miles; turn left on Ries Road; continue to park entrance; park in lot on right just before stream.

TO JOIN THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY: Call the Message Center at 822-6595. Give your name, address and phone number.